



A WHALEYVILLE SCRAPBOOK



Billy and Polly Brothers 1930's. Photo thanks to Polly Simpson

We were unable to attend the third annual Whaleyville Day this year but had Polly Simpson's wonderful story to share. We do so here with other items from our archives.

LIFE IN WHALEYVILLE BEFORE WORLD WAR II

By Polly Brothers Simpson

December 31, 2001

While baking a fresh apple pie I'm writing down some things we did as children.

In 1935, I was four years old. My sister, Dale, was one and my brother Bill, five. We lived in the small town of Whaleyville in what is now Suffolk, Virginia. My grandparents lived next door on one side of our house. On the other side was a lane leading to more of my grandparents' property. Behind us was land belonging to my grandparents.

Across the street, my grandfather's sister,

her husband and their children lived. Next door to them were my grandfather's brother, Uncle Clem, his wife and two children, a son and a daughter.

Approximately a block away was my grandfather's general store. He sold everything – loose crackers, sardines, wheel cheese - for a country lunch, penny candy, work clothes and shoes, makeup and nail polish, material by the yard and thread, fresh produce, canned goods, meats, soap and cleaning products and dairy items. Of course, he sold all kinds of tobacco – cigarettes, cigars and pipe tobacco, also snuff. In those days most men smoked and not a few women "dipped" snuff. There was a pot-bellied stove where the locals gathered to drink their Dr. Peppers, Cokes or Nehi soft drinks. On the wooden counter was a bottle of vinegar for the sardines, which would be eaten from the can. As far back as I can remember, the Nolde Bakery sold bread in wrapped loaves, which were carried at the store. Often they would give us miniature loaves, unsliced, as advertisement. We children had free run of the store, even to opening cases and taking out items we liked. While I didn't do that at age 4, I soon learned to try on the nail polish, encouraged by friends much more interested in that kind of thing than I was. My grandfather's office had an old-fashioned adding machine and a typewriter, files and catalogs for wholesale items. My parents bought our bikes from one of these catalogs and hid them upstairs over the store until Christmas morning.



Polly Brothers Simpson's grandparents' house still stands at 6418 Whaleyville Boulevard. Photo thanks to Polly Simpson who lived at 6420.



Vandalia Butler Brothers and Edward Alonza Brothers were Polly Brothers Simpson's grandparents who lived in the house shown above. They were also the grandparents of Peter Pruden III who has published a book on the Prudens and related families. That book is available at the train station.

Polly says that her grandmother was a bright, witty and talented woman. Photo thanks to Polly Simpson

Just north of our house a few blocks away was the school and the gym. The school housed grades 1-11. It had an auditorium and a grand piano. (We had recitals there.) The gym was equipped for basketball. The spectators sat upstairs in a kind of balcony. It was in the gym that we had school dances, square dancing with local musicians and a caller are the ones I remember best. In the auditorium country singers, like Sunshine Sue, performed and the PTA parents sold homemade freezer ice cream. For a few years I took dancing lessons. Our dance recitals were also at the school auditorium. Sometimes a friend and I wrote plays, usually adapting a story, cast them and gave performances for the entire school (this when I was in upper grade school). I loved to read and I remember discovering O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi" when I was in the fourth grade. I read it to my class at our Christmas party.

When I was in elementary school I skated to school on sidewalks all the way. The school sidewalks were wide so we often took our skates there just to skate. At least once I played Crack the Whip on skates. The bigger children put me on the end – not a good place to be. We rode our bikes into the country for recreation. Young people, all ages, rode to Whaley Station, to watch the trains come in. It might be hard for me to convince my grandchildren that this was fun but it was. We swam in the millponds and in at least one private pool near Whaley Station. We had all kinds of picnics. At our Fourth of July picnic, a family affair, we started with steamed hard crabs, then advanced to fried chicken, ham, fresh butterbeans, tomatoes, green peppers, rolls and then a choice of homemade desserts. This picnic was usually in Crittenden at Anne and Carl's (my aunt and uncle). We had family members coming from as far as Oak Ridge, Tennessee for this occasion. Of course Mother's half-sisters and their families came. Anne was Mother's sister. After eating, the adults sometimes played bridge and we played outdoors usually.

Crittenden was also the place we went for boating, swimming and fishing. By high school age I could take a bateau out in Crittenden Creek as long as I took someone my age with me. We rowed out into the creek and sometimes fished (with lines, no poles) or crabbed. At Eclipse nearby we dived off Bunkley's dock and swam. The adults trusted us to take care of ourselves. We didn't wear life preservers in the rowboats or have lifeguards where we swam. All of us learned to swim when we were fairly young and we understood water safety. Later, with motorboats and water skis, life preservers were usually worn.

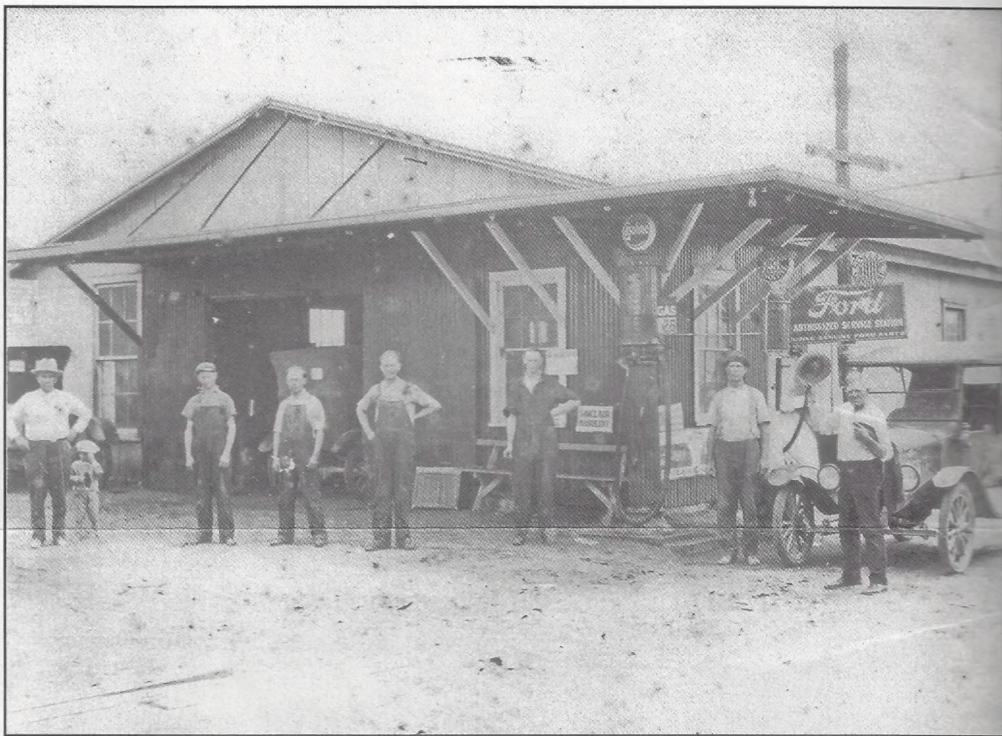
Watermelon eating at my grandmother's was a nightly occurrence in the summer. Every night, an hour or so after dinner, she cut a watermelon grown locally. Usually we mostly ate the heart and left the rest to the chickens that roamed free in the yard. Grandmother often made a pair of "false teeth" from the white part of the rind and wore them like fangs. This always got a reaction from the children. Then when it was dark we would catch fireflies in Mason jars that had holes punched in their lids with an ice pick. We might play hide and seek or sidewalk games like Giant Steps or Red light. Also, in the summer in the daytime we played croquet and badminton in the yard between our house and grandmother's. On Sundays the adults participated in croquet games, which were often quite competitive.

Then, there were tent shows in the summer. These traveling shows brought vaudeville and a cowboy movie each night for a week. The owners pitched their tent on my grandfather's land so we had free tickets. I went every night my parents let me go. In the movies we saw Tom Mix, Tex Ritter and other western stars. The violence (if any) was pretty tame and there was little romance as the cowboys rode into the sunset at the end of each movie. We didn't get to go to movies in town (old Suffolk) much but I remember seeing Tom Sawyer at the Cavalier. I had nightmares about Indian Joe for weeks.

Another summer treat, like watermelon and picnics, was scuppernong grapes. The Hunters had a vine. When the grapes were ripe we all went to their arbor, picked and ate grapes, spitting out the hulls onto the ground. This was a social occasion, a time for visiting as well as eating.

When it rained we played Monopoly, Rook, Fish, Old Maids and Setback. The girls played paper dolls and I read a lot, sitting up in a tree in our front yard. Many people thought this was somewhat strange, including my mother. I remember she would make me put down my book and go outside. I think that was why I climbed the tree to read.

We thought we were having fun with these simple pleasures. As I look back on them now, I know we did have fun.



J.C. Russell's Service Station c. 1920's. This was a real service station that provided gas for cars and shoes for horses in that transitional time. Those pictured are (L to R) G.C. Branton, G.C. Branton, Jr., Red Rountree (shop mechanic), Lonnie Eason (blacksmith and cart builder), John Russell, J.C. Russell (owner), Bill John Parker, Tony Carter. Photo courtesy of Whaleyville General Merchants.

Whaleyville Memories

(A Rerun) From a conversation with Henry Odom

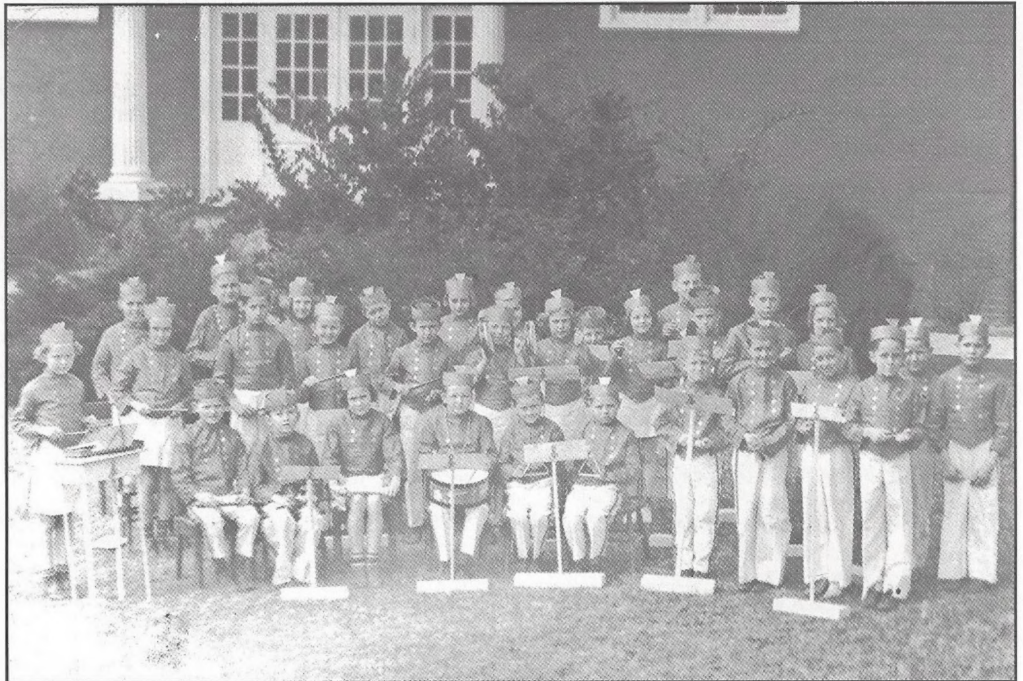
Henry Odom was born in his family home on Main Street in Whaleyville in 1930. He was delivered by Dr. Henry Holmes Hunter (Henry's uncle by marriage, for whom he was named) whose office and home was just down the street. Main Street in Whaleyville is also Route 13, an important road then and now. That was paved in Henry's early life. The other streets were dirt except the one-mile road to Whaley Station, which was covered with rocks.

There were several stores in Whaleyville in the 30's- one operated by Mr. Brothers and another by Mr. Small were right downtown. A third operated by Mr. Henry Vaughan was adjacent to the post office. Mr. Eason operated a blacksmith shop- there were still plenty of horses and mules being used. There was a

service station downtown as well as a bank (with Mr. Knight as president) and a drugstore run by Mr. Parker. There was a gas station/store across from the schoolyard (now across from the location of the fire house).

Tent shows came to town in the summer and showed movies- mostly cowboy movies. Teachers (who were required to be unmarried) boarded with the Brothers as well as with Dr. Hunter.

Whaley Station was a small wooden building where passengers could buy tickets and wait for the train. The stationmaster was Mr. Umphlett. Henry doesn't remember what freight was moved, but he remember how proud he felt going with Woodrow Vaughan to hand off mail and pick up mail at the railroad.



This picture was used in our September 2002 newsletter. Some of the band members are: Lyman Gomer, Owen Eason, Willis Eley, Jimmy Vaughan, Thomas White, Reginald Parker, Belmont Baines, Kenneth Russell, Henry Odom, Billy Brothers, Louise Hedgebeth, Fayte Bradshaw, and Ernestine Blow. Thanks to Henry Odom

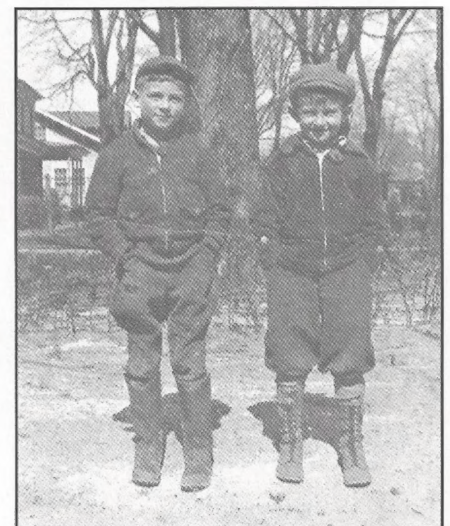


The Whaleyville High School baseball team won the county championship in 1929.

Standing - L to R - Odford Gomer, Dillard Horton, B___ Pierce, Raymond Pierce (twins), Elbert Womble, Coach F.O. Clark, Kneeling - L to R Gus Baines, Jimmy Baines, Gordon Riddick, Rete Odom, Sitting - L to R William, Burleigh Baines, Chester Witmer manager, Emmett Harrell, Delbert, Horton.

Photo thanks to Henry and Betty Odom

By the time Henry Odom came along, the mill that had given Whaleyville its initial jump-start was closed. Most men commuted to Suffolk or Norfolk/Portsmouth to work unless they owned their own business in the village. Vehicular traffic speeds though there now and there is little sign of the former Whaley Station.



Billy Brothers and Henry Odom get ready to go hunting. Whaleyville c.1939 Thanks to Henry and Betty Odom

Whaleyville Wrinkles

From *Suffolk Herald* Friday, August 18, 1893

- ♦ Mr. Jule Early and family, who have been visiting relatives in Aulander, have returned home.
- ♦ Misses Wheeler and Brock, who have been visiting Miss E____ Pearce, have returned home.
- ♦ Two dwelling houses on the suburbs of Whaleyville were burned this morning. The cause of the fire is not known.
- ♦ Mrs. Walter Harrell spent yesterday at Mr. John Harrell's near here.
- ♦ Mrs. Roseland returned home yesterday from a visit to relatives in Gatesville, N.C.
- ♦ Mr. William Baker, of Coleraine[sic], N.C. is visiting his wife at Mr. Simon Savage's.
- ♦ Rev. W.B. Waff filled his regular appointment at Great Fork last Saturday and Sunday.
- ♦ Master Ernest Horton is very sick with typhoid fever.
- ♦ Dr. L.S. Savage left yesterday for Barrett's Neck.
- ♦ Mrs. Jarrett, of Jarrett's station, is visiting her son, Mr. James Jarrett, near here.

Whaleyville Businesses

Listed in 1897/98 *Virginia State Gazetteer & Business Directory*

General Merchants

W. L. Costen

R. B. Hays

Jackson & Co

Johnson & Ashburn

Knight & Ellinor

A.D. Milteer & Co.



Millers – Corn and Flour

B.R. Doughtie



Millers – Saw & Planning

Jackson & Co.

Whaleyville Mfg. Co.



Livery Stables

T.O. Knight

A.D. Milteer

E.W. Savage



Principal Farmers

B.P. Baker

F.R. Elenor

W.F. Milteer

Wm. J. Morgan

Simon Savage

J.L. Savage

T.W. Savage

B.R. Doughtie

J.T. Harrell

J.W. Howell

Elkanah Harrell

H.S. Doughtie

James Voight

E.W. Savage

Andrew Carter

David Horton



Tanner

Jesse Langston



Undertaker

T.W. Savage



Post Office

J. N. Milteer



Cabinet Makers, Carpenters, & Builders

J.T. Harrell

Simon Savage



Coach & Wagon Builders

H.S. Doughtie



The Odom brothers, Tom, Bob, Rete and Henry
c.1942

Whaleyville And Cypress Societies In Lit. Contest

The Whaleyville-Cypress High School literary contests will be held in the Cypress High School auditorium Friday night, at 8 o'clock. Miss Margareta Corbitt, of Cypress, will act as chairman and Miss Annie Holt, of Whaleyville, as secretary. The contest as arranged will be as follows:

Debate, "Resolved That Immigration Should be Prohibited From the United States for a Period of Ten Years." Affirmative, Miss Ethelyn Eason and Roy Knight, of Cypress; negative, Quentin Brothers and Miss Willie Cross Riddick, of Whaleyville.

Essays, "Gifts," Miss Eva Lowe, of Whaleyville; "Good Citizenship," Miss Ethel Bunch, of Cypress.

Declamations, "Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight," Miss Sadie Bradshaw, of Whaleyville; "The Octoroon," Miss Annie Laurie Holland, of Cypress.

Readings, "Uncle Wash Plays Santa Claus," Miss Mary Harrell, of Whaleyville; Rudyard Kipling's "If," Miss Branton, of Cypress.

Music will be furnished by Miss Nina Oliver's orchestra before and after the contest. Refreshments will be offered for sale by the Patron's League. Marshals will be Frank Parker and Hugh Brinkley. The entertainment is for the benefit of the Whaleyville and Cypress literary societies.

"Whaleyville Wrinkles" and the other "news" bits here are indicative of a slower, less harried way of life that we appreciate. Hope you enjoy them.

BIG DOINGS AT WHALEYVILLE.

A phone message from Whaleyville, Va., tonight says that preparations now are all complete for the rededication services Sunday of the Whaleyville Methodist church. The finishing touches on the program, which has been arranged with a view to the comfort and enjoyment of visitors, were made today.

The last provision is a sufficient number of carriages to transport visitors from the railroad station at Whaleyville to the village, a mile away. The carriages will be run without price.

There will be served a fine dinner and that, too, is free. Rev. W. G. Parker, the pastor, says that a big crowd is expected and ample provisions

have been made for its entertainment. The rededication sermon will be preached by Rev. C. L. Bane, of Norfolk.

Rev. Joseph A. Thomas, of Richmond, will preach at 2:30 o'clock, and Rev. J. K. Jolliff, of Portsmouth, will deliver the evening sermon.

The two last named were formerly pastors of the church.

News of Suffolk and the Adjoining Counties
"Big Doings in Whaleyville" from the *Virginia Pilot* October 6, 1905

Misses Ruth Knight and Patty Hunter spent the week-end with friends in Franklin.

Mr. Joseph Milteer, of Quitman, Ga., who has been studying "wireless," in New York, has completed his course and is now visiting his cousins, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Milteer, before returning to his home.

Miss Julia May Milteer entertained last Wednesday night at a "sugar stew" in honor of her cousin, Joseph Milteer, of Quitman, Ga., Those present were Misses Odell Savage, Louise Gale and Blanche Riddick, of Suffolk; Bertie, Daisy and Mary Roberts, of Holland; Virginia Savage, Gertie, Virginia and Julia May Milteer, of Whaleyville; Messrs Benjie and Rowland Piland, Buddie Smith, Stanley Johnson, Harry Harcum of Suffolk; J. R. Barnhill, Willard Morgan, Otis Byrd, Roger and Leates Milteer, Lloyd and Worth Womble, of Whaleyville, and Joseph Milteer, of Quitman Ga.

Miss Elizabeth Harrell has returned to Norfolk after spending a week at her home here.

February 3, 1922 from *The Suffolk Herald*.
SNHS note to our younger readers: The wireless was the radio, which was still new in 1922. A sugar stew or sugar pull was a party that revolved around making and eating pulled sugar or taffy. That was the best made in the cold weather.

Whaleyville

MRS. W. J. RAWLES

Mrs. T. O. Knight entertained at a family reunion on Christmas. Her guests were Dr. and Mrs. Esten Knight, Miss Betty Knight, and Tommy Knight, of Farmville, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Daughtrey, Misses Jean and Barbara Daughtrey, Lyman and Tommy Daughtrey, of Bowling Green, Mr. and Mrs. John Shuler, and little daughter, Ellen, of Cradock, Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Knight and Mrs. H. B. Knight of Whaleyville.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Arthur entertained at dinner on Christmas Eve. Those present were T. V. Arthur, of Somerton, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Arthur and E. J. Godfrey, of Whaleyville.

Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Odom entertained Sunday night at a dinner and family reunion. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Odom, Jr. and son, J. R. 3rd, Mr. and Mrs. Rete Odom and Sam Odom, of Norfolk and Henry Odom, of Whaleyville.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Rawles had as their guests for Christmas dinner, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Barrett, Misses Iva Mary and Katherine Barrett and Sidney Barrett, Jr., of Franklin, and Mrs. J. T. Rawles, of Holland.

Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Gomer have been spending a week with Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Smith in Portsmouth.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Forehand, of Richmond, have concluded a visit with Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Small.

Mr. and Mrs. Don G. Weller left Thursday for their home in Hempstead, L. I. after a brief visit with Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Knight.

Miss Betty Parker and Miss Dorothy Gardner, of Mary Washington College, are spending the holidays with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray E. Reid, of Blackstone, are the guests of Mrs. J. H. Vaughan.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Jakeman spent Christmas with relatives in Suffolk.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Arthur entertained at a dinner Thursday night. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. W. Q. Brothers, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Brothers, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Arthur, Mr. and Mrs. William Walters and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Godfrey.

Sam Odom, of Norfolk, has been spending a few days with relatives in Whaleyville.

Suffolk News Herald December 28, 1946

The Sewing Club was very pleasantly entertained last Wednesday afternoon by Mrs. C. M. Simpson. Ice cream and cake were served and a social hour spent in conversation and fancy work.

Those present were: Mrs. G. B. Robertson, Mrs. E. A. Brothers, Mrs. Seth Robertson, Mrs. G. C. Brothers, Mrs. W. J. Rawles, Mrs. S. E. Holloway, Mrs. C. M. Simpson, Misses Annie Mae Tyus, Ruth Barrow, Kathleen Phaup, Helen Truitt, Helen Bishop, Nellie Hood and Susie Rabey.

Mrs. B. T. Parker and little son, of Somerton, spent Monday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Parker.

At a Liberty Loan meeting here on Wednesday night a large crowd assembled to hear Col. J. E. West, Senator from this district, who delivered an interesting address. Col. West earnestly exhorted each and every one to buy Liberty Bonds and help drive the Hun back to his lair and keep him there.

April 26, 1918 *The Suffolk Herald*

Whaleyville

MRS. W. J. RAWLES

Memorial services will be held at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon at the Methodist Church with the sermon delivered by Rev. F. L. Baker, pastor of the Oxford Methodist Church Suffolk. Those who have lots in the cemetery are requested to have them put in order by Sunday.

Charlie Walters has returned from a visit with relatives in Washington.

Mrs. J. L. Hare, Mrs. Eley and Miss Elizabeth Hare, of Box Elder, were recent guests of Mrs. J. E. Edwards.

Miss Violet Cross, of Franklin, spent the week-end with her mother Mrs. Z. V. Cross.

Edward Brothers who has been stationed at the Norfolk Naval Base is spending a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Brothers, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Jones and children spent Sunday with relatives in Chuckatuck.

Miss Mae Ellen Parker, of Suffolk, spent the week-end with her mother, Mrs. P. A. Parker.

Staff Sergeant Elmer Godfrey, who was recently discharged from an Army hospital in Miami Beach, Florida, is now stationed at Lang-

Mrs. J. E. Edwards, Sr. spent Sunday in Somerton as the guest of Mrs. Leonard Vann. She attended Memorial Services at the church Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. G. A. Helms, of Edenton, N. C. is spending the week with her sister, Mrs. B. T. Parker, of Somerton.

Miss Peggy Stephenson spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Stephenson in Suffolk.

Mrs. W. J. Rawles has been confined to her home with laryngitis.

Suffolk News Herald May 1945

SNHS note: Nina Oliver whose orchestra is mentioned on Page 4 was later Mrs. Milton Chalkley of Suffolk.

WHALEYVILLE

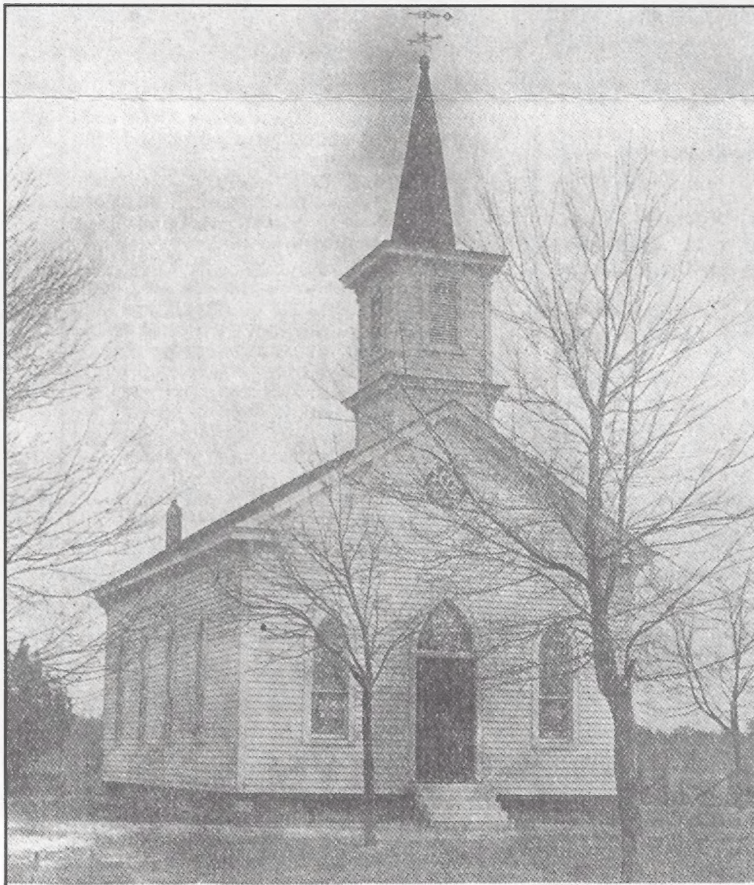
This was a farming section prior to 1847, when the Jackson Brothers Company of Salisbury, Md., embarked in the lumber business in that section. As late as 1876 it was only a cross roads in a large opening. Mr. Seth Mitchell Whaley bought a farm and moved there in December, 1877. The narrow gauge railroad from Suffolk to Whaleyville was built in 1876 to haul the lumber to the Nansemond river from whence it was shipped. Messrs James Parker and Clarence F. Norment built the first store there. Up until 1884 the lumber business had been carried on with small mills, but in that year a large modern sawmill was built by Jackson Brothers Company, and soon Jackson & Company opened a large commissary store. The place then began to grow rapidly, the railroad was extended to bring in the logs, which had been cut as far as eight miles from the mill before it was built.

In 1887-88 the Norfolk & Carolina Railroad was built, this passing near the village, and soon the narrow gauge railroad was abandoned, and the new road which is now the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad was used to transport lumber and logs to and from the mill.

Whaleyville continued to grow with a large trade with the farmers of the surrounding country. The M.E. Church (South) was organized in 1884 in the village. A Masonic Lodge was organized. Great Fork, a Baptist Church, organized in 1833 by the Rev. John Harrell is near. The Bank of Whaleyville was opened March 20, 1907, now one of the strongest country banks in the section. The district high school was built there in 1915 and stands high, her graduates having made good at the different institutions of higher learning.

In 1919 Jackson Brothers Company began to move their lumber operations from Whaleyville and since that time the village has continued to depend and develop the trade with the surrounding country, having cotton gins and shops. Population 500 (Bradstreet).

By W.E. MacClenny c.1930 as it appears in Flay Day Celebration booklet of 1976 published by the Nansemond River Power Squadron and Suffolk Bicentennial Commission.



M. E Church, Whaleyville, Va.

M. E. Church, Whaleyville, VA c.1907 (See "Big Doings in Whaleyville page 5)

Annual Fourth-July Celebration at Whaleyville
Sponsored by Whaleyville Ruritan Club

Baseball Game 10 A. M.
Whaley-Gates vs. Holland

Baseball Game 3 P. M.
Whaley-Gates vs. Boykins

Square Dance High School Gymnasium 9 P. M.

Sandwiches, Cold Drinks and Peanuts for sale
Music

Drawings for free prizes morning, afternoon
and night

Admission Baseball Game ... 25 cents

Admission Square Dance: Couple 50 cents
Spectators " " 15 cents.

500

*Parke. Brinkley. Treas
Whaleyville Ruritan Club
Whaleyville, Va.
By Order P. O. Parker*

The Whaleyville Ruritan Club ordered 500 copies of this undated Fourth of July program. From the Gurley Press Collection.

ROBERTSON SCHOOL

Whaleyville, Virginia

Junior High School Course

This Certifies That

has completed the course of study prescribed for the Ninth Grade in the Robertson School and through proficiency in scholarship and deportment has merited honorable graduation and is therefore entitled to the award of this

Diploma

Given at the Robertson School, Whaleyville, Va., this _____ day of _____ 19__
by order of the Superintendent or County Schools.

Principal

H. V. White
County Superintendent

Member of School Board

Prior to integration Robertson School served black students. From the Gurley Press Collection.

SOS – A Check up 11 years later

In 1995 the old Seaboard Railroad Station was being purchased by the Historical Society. A fire had destroyed part of the building and we had just bought the Station but we were concerned about several other old buildings on Main Street as well. Our newsletter was entitled S.O.S. for SAVE OUR STATION AND SAVE OLD SUFFOLK. Now, eleven years later, we take this opportunity in Preservation Month to check our progress. (We're writing this in May) The following buildings were on our endangered list in 1995.



Before



After

After a fire late in 1994 the station was slated for demolition. Saved by SNHS with help from many sources, the station opened to the public in 2000. Now this is a museum and gift shop, which hosts several thousand guests each year. **SAVED**

The Brown House was bought by Preservation of Historic Suffolk and sold to a new owner/occupant for renovation. **SAVED**

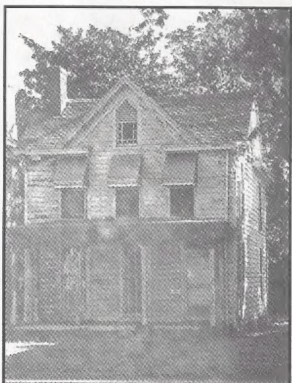


Before



After

The Eppes House was also bought by Preservation of Historic Suffolk and sold to a new owner for renovation. It has been renovated and is offered again for sale. **SAVED**



Before

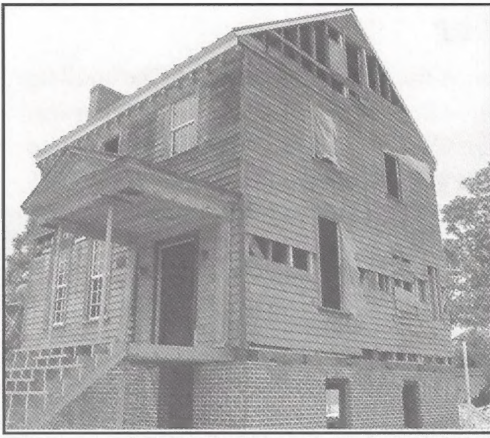


After

The Gardner Store was purchased and renovated. It now houses a thriving business. **SAVED**



Before - after (not available)



*The Prentis house, above before and after, was in a sad state for decades. In the 1990's the call to tear it down grew louder. SNHS helped the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities buy it. **SAVED***



*The Wood house, above before and after, is now the office of Carr Investments. **SAVED.***



*The old Central Hotel/Finney school building, pictured above before and after, has been renovated and is used as a law office. **SAVED.** This was part of the College Court project.*



Still Endangered!!

Only one of the buildings named eleven years ago still in a questionable state is the old post office/residence, possibly the oldest building still standing on Main Street. It is believed to have been built soon after the British burned Suffolk in 1779 and it escaped the Great Fire of 1837, which destroyed both sides of Main Street from Mahan Street to the river. (Above)

Endangered in Old Nansemond County

We cannot help but be concerned about the future of this house and its one remaining dependency.

The mid nineteenth century Eley House off Holland Road was moved when the farmland on which it sat was sold for the construction of a Target warehouse. The house has sat on pilings across the road for three years. (See our March 2002 newsletter available at the train station for history on this house.(below)



Eley House

SAVED EARLY

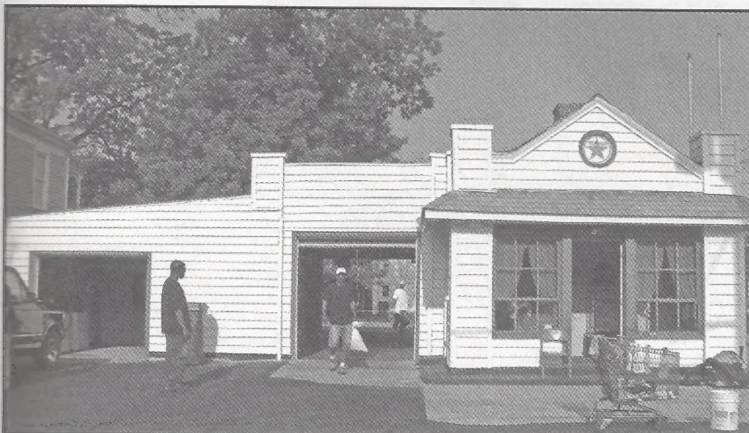
Among the many buildings saved in the old City and old Nansemond County over the years are these two, pictures of which were in our files. They were saved before historic preservation had spread much beyond Colonial Williamsburg.



The 18th Century Washington Smith house in Somerton shown in the foreground in 1936 was renovated some years after the photo by Mr. and Mrs. John Goodman Arthur in whose family it remains today.

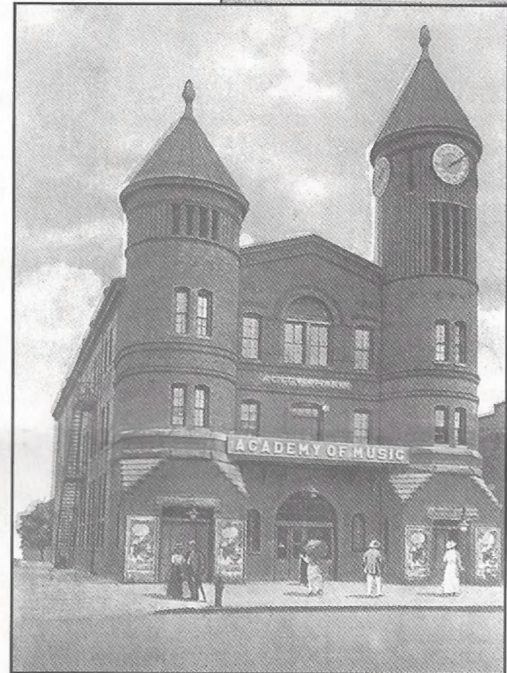
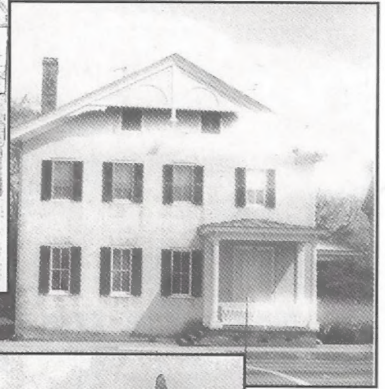
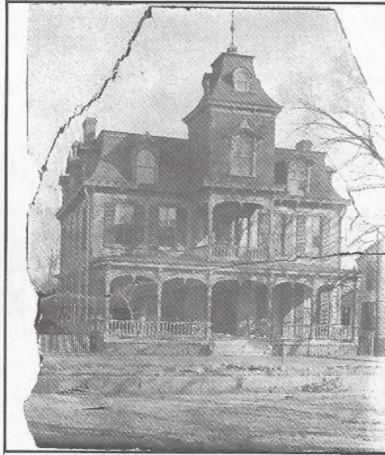


Pembroke, near Driver, is believed to have been built around 1701. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Warrington were the forward thinking people who saved this amazing house around the middle of the last century.



Among the LOST

These are just a few of the many buildings in the old city lost in the last century.



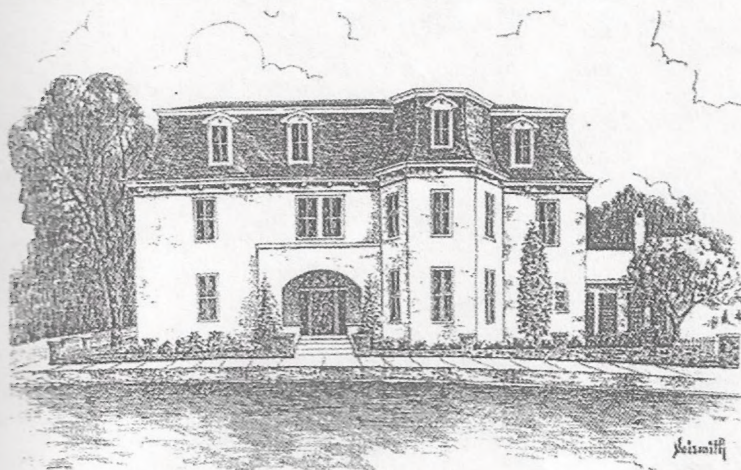
Top: This is a picture from the SNHS collection. It is marked on the back Residence of Mrs. M.E. Pierce, No. 235 Main St. (North), Suffolk, VA, Nansemond Co. February 9, 1907.

Based on the 1907 Birds Eye View of Suffolk, this house was in the (current) 400 block of N. Main St. The street used to be numbered from the river. Now the 100 block starts at Washington Street. Can any of our readers tell us what happened to this house?

Above right: This former Main Street house, believed to have been built in 1817, stood on N. Main Street until the 1970's when it was demolished along with other 19th century buildings, to make way for a parking lot. It was the home of David Jordan and eventually became the Nansemond Seminary, then a residence again. It still had its original brick kitchen, which was also demolished!

Above bottom: The Lost list could go on and on, covering Nansemond County but the old City Hall/City Market is likely the most lamented across the board. More to come about this in a later issue.

◀KUDOS to the owner of the old service station on the southwest corner of Mahan and Main Streets. The recent renovations have really improved the building. Once known to many Suffolkans as Chubby Carr's service station, then, later Joyner's car wash. It has reopened as Boone's car wash.



Thank You

The Dawson House was open for Garden Tour guests, thanks especially to Sandra Bunting who cleaned, hosted, and made refreshments. Thanks also to hostesses Lyn Bunting, Karen Hughes, Hilda Mansfield and Bertha Poulson, and flower arrangers Frances Carr, Mary Ann Coggsdale, and Marian Hines. Thanks to yard workers Nancy Dempsey, Sugar Barrow, Bill Duggan, Tom Woodward and Thomas Woodward.

*Get ready for our
40th birthday
celebration in
October.*

*Watch for information
about our upcoming
events.*

Contributions since last listed:

SPECIAL GIFTS DAWSON HOUSE PROJECT

Anonymous
George Birdsong
Anonymous
Nansemond Suffolk Academy Student
Historical Society
Susan Garrett air layered camellias and
sold them at our March meeting, giving
the money to the Dawson House.

HONOR
In Honor of
Mr. Andrew B. Damiani
Suffolk Woman's Club

MEMORIALS In Memory of

**Mr. Walter Mathew &
Mrs. Mary Louise Bracy Aston, Jr.**
Allen C. Story

In Memory of
J. Randolph Turner
Mrs. Jane and George Gatling

In Memory of
Hazel C. Felton and Ann H. Burton
Anonymous

Membership form

If your name is not on our list of members, we had not received your dues as of May 22, 2006. This will be your last newsletter unless we hear from you. Maybe we crossed in the mail. If that's the case, share this membership form with someone else or consider giving a gift membership.

SUFFOLK-NANSEMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 1255 • SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA 23439-1255

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please circle the dues amount.

	Membership	Corporate
Benefactor	\$1,000	\$5,000 plus
Sponsor	500	2,500
Patron	250	1,000
Friend	100	500
Contributing	50	250
Supporting	20	

SNHS is a non-profit tax exempt
501(c)(3) organization.

Name as it should appear on the roster

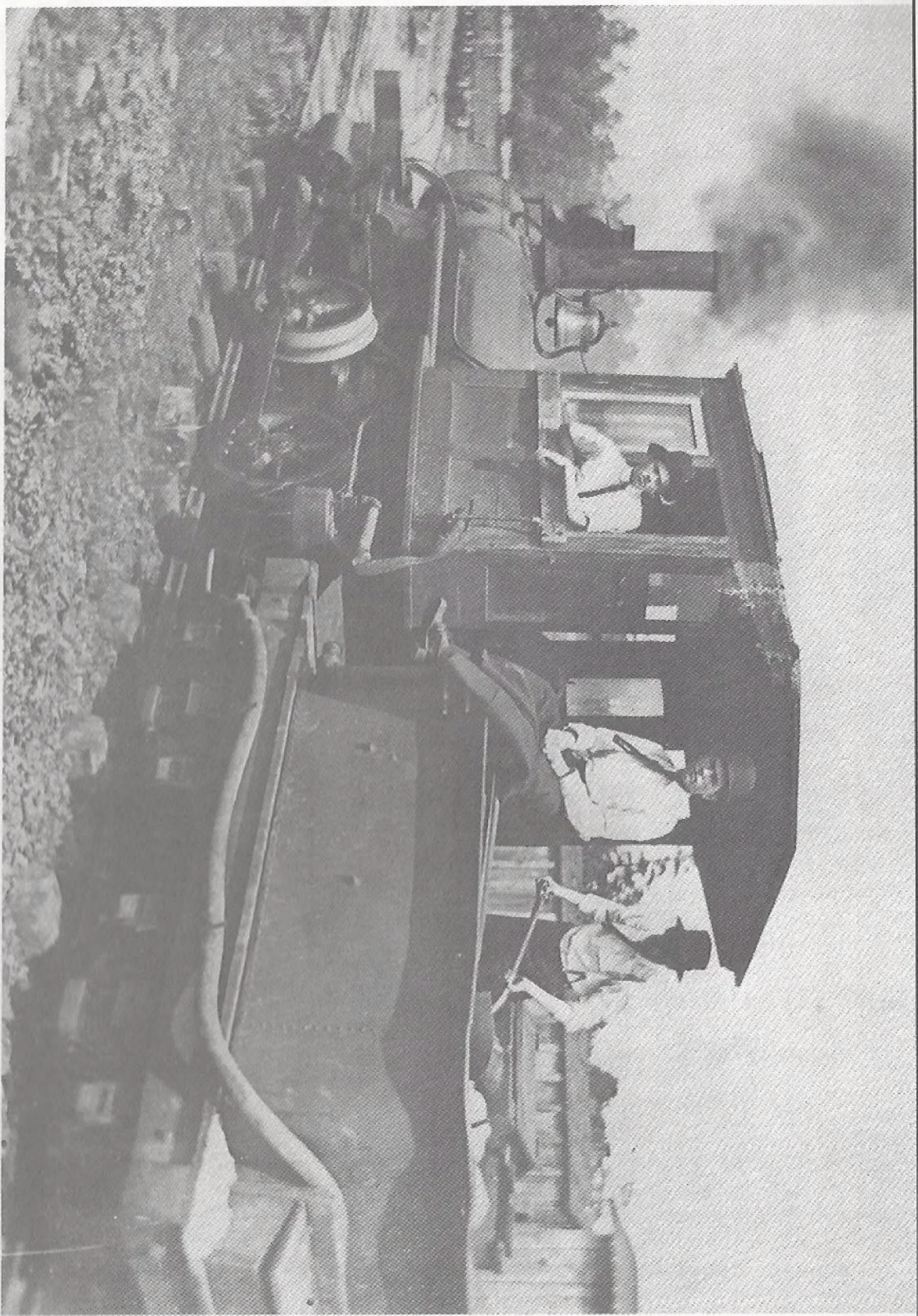
Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone Number

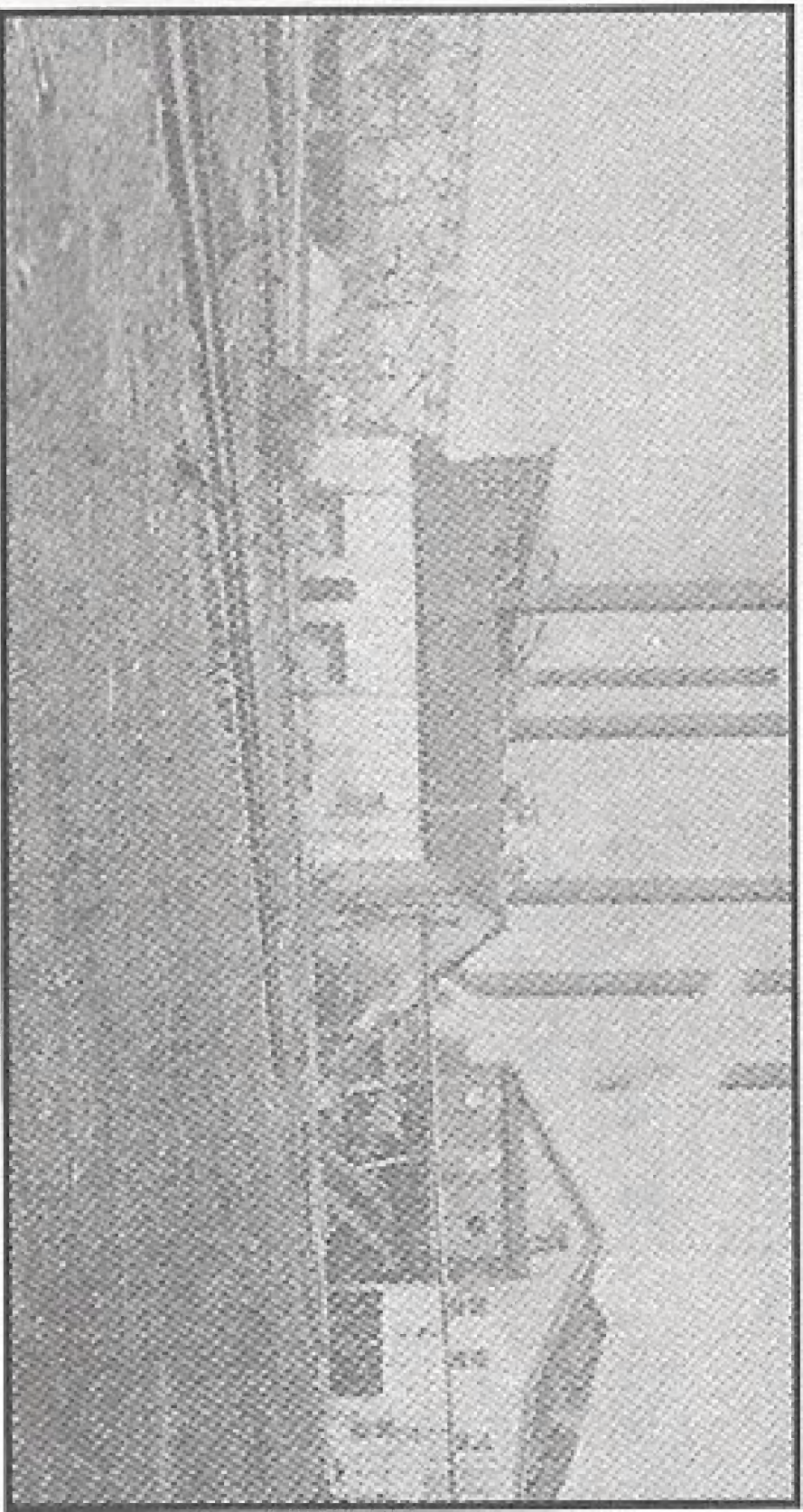
E-mail Address

There is history in all our lives.



The Jackson Express about 1890

This narrow gauge line ran from the Whaleville mill to the Nansemond River in one direction and from the mill almost to the Chowan River in Gates County, N.C. in the other direction. By the late 1880's or 1890 this railroad was replaced by the Atlantic Coast Line. The Jackson Brothers mill was closed by 1920, from From Green Siding to Roduco, by Dick Eare. Used with permission.



Jackson Bros. Co.'s Mill c.1907